

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 430.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1883.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER.

## For Sale.

### ECONOMY IN GAS.

SUGG'S FLAT FLAME BURNERS  
GIVE A  
SILENT WHITE FLAME  
AND ECONOMY IN GAS OF  
30 per cent.  
they can be readily attached to ordinary  
Gasoliers and Brackets.

SUGG'S NEWEST BURNERS with Artistic  
Shades for DRAWING ROOM and DINING  
ROOM.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,  
Agents for Hongkong.

ARTISTIC PORCELAIN MENU  
STANDS.

HAND-ETCHED MENU AND NAME  
CARDS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,  
Hongkong, 19th May, 1883. [340]

## Amusements.

GARRISON THEATRE  
HONGKONG.

TO-MORROW EVENING,  
the 16th June.

BY KIND PERMISSION OF  
H. E. GENERAL SARGENT, C. B.

GRAND COMBINATION OF TALENT  
FOR THIS NIGHT ONLY.

THE ANGLO-SWISS BELL-RINGERS.

The Brothers Darrow, Australia's Champion  
Negro Burlesque Comiques.

MR. DAVIS,  
the renowned pianist and ballad singer.

MR. HARLAND'S  
baritone and motto songs.

PROFESSOR LACIE  
and his Wooden headed family "Down you go."

NEW JIGS, CLOG DANCES,  
SONGS AND FARCES.

Everything in the Programme has been arranged  
to enable all present to enjoy

"A HAPPY NIGHT."

Doors open at 8:30 : commence at 9 sharp.

Prices 50 and 25 Cents.

A few reserved seats One Dollar.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1883. [463]

## Insurances.

THE Undersigned have been appointed  
AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD  
of UNDERWRITERS.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1883.

RECORD of AMERICAN and FOREIGN  
SHIPPING.

Agents.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1883. [470]

## GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,  
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL \$833,333-33  
RESERVE FUND..... \$70,858-27.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq. | LEE YAT LAU, Esq.

LO YEK MOON, Esq. | CHU CHIK NUNO, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at  
CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.

Hongkong, 15th September, 1882. [601]

NATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE  
ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned AGENTS for the above  
are prepared to accept RISKS on MER-  
CHANDISE by STEAMERS and SAILING VESSELS  
from Hongkong, China, and Japan to all parts of  
the world.

For further information apply to  
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1883. [393]

VANGTSZE INSURANCE  
ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up)..... Ta. 420,000.00  
PERMANENT RESERVE..... Ta. 230,000.00  
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND..... 318,735-56

TOTAL CAPITAL and  
ACCUMULATIONS, 31st..... Ta. 968,235-56  
March, 1883.

DIRECTOR.

F. D. HITCH, Esq., Chairman.

C. LUCAS, Esq. | W. MEYERINK, Esq.

A. J. M. INVERARITY, Esq. | G. H. WHEELER, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.

Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.

Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co.,  
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent,

68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all  
parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent. for Interest  
on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the  
UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually dis-  
tributed among all Contributors of Business (who-  
ever Shareholders or not) in proportion to the  
premises paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1883. [85]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED..... \$1,000,000)

The above Company is prepared to accept  
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods,  
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world  
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,  
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,  
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD, WEST.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [106]

STAG HOTEL,  
QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

GOOD ACCOMMODATION FOR  
VISITORS.

ENGLISH & AMERICAN BILLIARDS.

Till 12 o'clock, Dinner at 7:00.

This HOTEL is centrally situated, and  
within easy distance of the principal landing  
places.

475 J. COOK, Proprietor.

## Amusements.

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A few reserved seats One Dollar.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1883. [463]

## Intimations.

SAYLE & CO.'S SHOWROOMS.

SAYLE & CO.

NEW SPRING GOODS.

EX S.S. "GLENCOE."

WHITE DRESS MATERIALS.  
CREAM DRESS MATERIALS.  
NUNS' VEILINGS in every Color.  
SUMMER BEIGES in every Color.  
GALATEAS for lady's Washing Suits.  
WHITE INDIA MUSLINS.  
MULL CORD MUSLINS.  
WHITE VICTORIA LAWNS.  
BLACK and COLORED SUNSHADES.  
LADIES' PATENT LEATHER SLIPPERS.  
LADIES' & CHILDREN'S BOOTS & SHOES.

EX S.S. "GLENNOG."

New Patterns in POMPADOUR SATEENS.  
Plain Colored SATEENS in every Shade.  
FRENCH PERCALE in every Pattern.  
Specialities in ZEPHYR CHECKS.  
CANVAS CORSETS for Summer Wear.  
SUMMER PAJAMAH FLANNELS.  
Novelties in LADIES' SILK UMBRELLAS.  
Trimmed & Untrimmed HATS & BONNETS.  
A Choice Selection of FLOWERS.  
OSTRICH TIPS & FLATS in Light Colours.  
INKSTANDS in Great Variety.

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

SAYLE & CO.,  
VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1883. [249]

"NOVELTY STORE,"

JUST RECEIVED.

A SMALL CONSIGNMENT OF MALTESE LACE AND SILVER FILIGREE WORK,  
COMPRISING:-

White and Black Silk Trimming Lace.  
Cotton Trimming Lace.  
Silk Handkerchief Border.  
Silk Circular and Square Doyleys.  
and Black Silk Fichie.  
Silk Parasol Cover.  
Cotton Parasol Cover.  
Silk Veil and Scarf.  
Silk Collar and Cuffs.  
Silk Collar Breast Pendant.  
Cotton Collar Breast Pointed.  
and Black Silk Necktie.  
Silk Mittens.

Silver Filigree Pendant, St. John's Cross & Crown.  
Earrings to match the above.  
Fancy Pendant.  
Plain Chain Necklet.  
Fancy Locket.  
Fancy Bracelet.  
Brooch (Love Knot).  
(Margarite).  
(Slipper).  
(Shell).  
(Circular).  
(Fan).  
(Lily).  
Earrings to match the above.

AN INSPECTION IS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

ANY OF THE ABOVE ORDERED THROUGH THIS "STORE" WILL BE  
CHARGED FOR AT COST PRICE.

S. MEYERS,  
MANAGER.

Hongkong, 11th June, 1883. [28]

KELLY & WALSH

HAVE JUST ESTABLISHED ON THEIR PREMISES AT THE REAR OF THE STORE,

A LARGE  
PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING OFFICE.

THE PLANT is quite new, the machinery being of the best and most recent construction, and the type, which has been selected, with the greatest care, includes not only all the Standard Fonts, but an immense variety of styles in FANCY, LETTERS and ORNAMENTATION.

MERCANTILE PRINTING.

UNDER this head, we are prepared to execute Quickly and Cheaply all kinds of Book Work, Commercial Reports and Circulars, Bills of Lading, Shipping, Invoice, and Memorandum Forms, Letter Headings, Annual Statements and Reports, Telegraph Codes, Price Lists, Forms of Bills of Exchange, Receipts, Delivery and Godown Orders, &c., &c. We invite the fullest comparison of our Prices with those of other houses, whether in Hongkong or at Home.

FANCY PRINTING.

WE intend to make a specialty of this class of work. Having a most extensive and varied assortment of Fancy Type, which will be maintained at the highest possible Standard of excellence, by the addition of the newest designs immediately they are issued from the leading English and American Foundries, we are in a position to produce first class work, and feel confident that our efforts in this direction will give satisfaction.

GOLD, SILVER and COLOURED PRINTING.

WILL RECEIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

BOOKS carefully bound in Morocco, Russia, Calf, Cloth, or in any required style.

Special terms quoted for binding the books of Club, Customs, or Private Libraries.

Music bound in limp leather or cloth, and finished in the best style of workmanship.

ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURERS.

ACCOUNT BOOKS of every description, manufactured from Hand or Machine Made Papers, ruled and printed to any Pattern, however intricate, and strongly bound.

Machine Ruling.

CHIT BOOKS of all kinds for Ladies, for Gentlemen, for Business, and for Official use.

ALL CHIT BOOKS purchased from our stock will be lettered free of charge.

The office is under experienced European management and subject to our constant personal supervision.

Our prices will be found as reasonable as is consistent with sound workmanship and good material.

The Machinery at our command will enable us to undertake work of the cheapest kind, competing in this respect with the Chinese.

We shall at all times be glad to furnish Estimates.

KELLY & WALSH—HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1883. [560]

W. BREWER.

HAS JUST LANDED.

CIGARETTES.

SWEET CAPORAL, 1 CAPORAL, FULL CAPORAL, STRAIGHT CUT, SULTANA with  
ENAMELLED MOUTHPIECE.

NEW CIGARETTE TOBACCO.

## Intimations.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO.

FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS,  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,  
DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES,  
PFRUMERS,  
IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERSOF  
MANILA CIGARS,  
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,  
AND  
MANUFACTURERSOR  
AERATED WATERS.THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.THE SHANGHAI PHARMACY,  
24, NANKIN ROAD, SHANGHAI.BOTICAS INGLESA,  
14, ESCOLTA, MANILA.

THE CANTON DISPENSARY, CANTON.

THE DISPENSARY, FOOCHOW. [3]

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, *Hongkong Telegraph*," and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

Whilst the columns of the *Hongkong Telegraph* will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish *The Hongkong Telegraph* daily at 4 p.m. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige at once communicating with the Manager.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1883.

## FRANCE AND TONGKING.

The following opinions of the home press on this all important question will be found interesting:—

The Times Paris correspondent writes:—It is curious to contrast the perfectly reassuring information given by the Minister of the Navy with information supplied from Chinese sources. On that side it is asserted that the Chinese are resolved on resisting by force of arms the assumption of possession contemplated by France; that during the last six months they have been collecting large numbers of troops on their frontiers—viz., 50,000 or 60,000, armed with improved muskets; that they have ironclads and gunboats, which are in no respect inferior to those of Europe; that they are uncommonly well versed in the science of torpedoes, and that they have courageous torpedo men; in short, that the taking possession by France, in the manner described by the Minister of the Navy, might be fraught with serious consequences. No doubt, against all this may be set off the vast superiority of the French in tactics, coolness, and courage; but it will certainly be wise in the French Government not to despise these rumours, and to test them seriously, while still preparing this distant expedition.

The *Economist* is not without hope that the French Chamber, when fully informed of the facts, may refuse to vote the credit on account of the expedition. The French, though victorious at first, perhaps for months, will find themselves gradually pressed by more formidable troops, nominally in the service of Annam, but directed by Chinese skill, led by men who have had ten years of victory, and sacrificed with an utter recklessness of life. They will find reinforcements necessary, and then the great difficulty will arise. The French Government will be compelled to fight through its fleet. Unless some change not worth speculating about takes place in France, the Ministry will be afraid to ask the Chamber for the 20,000 men and £5,000,000 necessary for a great expedition. The French peasantry care nothing about Asia; they are determined not to waste their children in tropical warfare, and they suspect the Parisians of declaring war to make money. The Ministry will therefore be tempted to avoid defeat at home, to trust to their fleet. A blockade will not be borne readily, the questions about the reality of the blockade will be serious, and English, American, and Parsee firms are certain to engage in the profit-

able trade of blockade running, which with goods on board like silk and opium, will pay if every second vessel is taken and condemned. The special position of Hongkong, which cannot be blockaded, will make this trade most exasperating, more especially as the English control all the saleable coal in Asia. The opportunities of quarrel will be endless, and upon subjects on which both France and England are especially sensitive.

The *New York Herald* says:—As the French are bound to annex Tong King we may enumerate some of the obstacles which are likely to meet their advance. The first of these obstacles is the people. They are a barbarous set, wholly under the domination of the Black Flags, who are pirates and cut-throats. The second of the obstacles is Great Britain. Does France really suppose that she will be allowed to dam one of the richest sources of the Indian revenue? One of her officers said the other day, "If the Chinese were foolish enough to try to prevent us from annexing Tong King we would soon turn the key of the Haikwan's treasury chest by stopping the whole of the junk trade in opium." To which the British might reply that if France were so foolish as to try anything of the kind one of the severest naval engagements of the century would have to be fought on the China seas. Nor would anything pacify the English animosity if it were suspected that the French in Tong King were leagued with King Thibebaw of Burmah. Ages have not effaced the rivalries of Russia and England on the north-western frontier of India, and nothing could abate the jealousy of Great Britain if France should grow strong on its north-eastern frontier. The third of the obstacles is China. Frenchmen at home and abroad have a sublime contempt for China, wholly without reason, as we believe. The Emperor being still a child is not, perhaps, a match for President Grevy, and the Emperor of the West, though a woman of character, is probably not as intellectual as Mme. Edmond Adam. But in statecraft we would willingly back Li Hung-chang, the Grand Secretary, against M. Jules Ferry; or Prince Kung against M. Challenel-Lacour, or General Tso against General Thibaudin. Then, as to the army, there are many supernumeraries in China called bannermen, who come out on state occasions with rusty swords and spears and give themselves airs, and are reminded that they placed the present dynasty on the throne. They draw large pay for doing nothing, demoralising the army much as the French army was demoralised before the war of 1870. The regulars, on the other hand, are numerous and well disciplined. They carry little baggage, move quickly, are excellent in a harassing warfare, and, if armed with breech-loaders, might prove as obstinate a foe as the Turks at Plevna. For these reasons France cannot proceed too warily. She is smittenwith the mania of colonisation. A PRELIMINARY return of the British Army (prepared in anticipation of the general annual return) for the year 1882, with abstracts for the years 1863 to 1882 inclusive, has just been issued as a blue-book. The return gives particulars in regard to effectives, establishments, and distribution; recruiting and casualties; courts-martial, crimes, and punishments; rewards and services; ages, heights, and chest measurements; and nationalities, religions, and education. It also deals with the auxiliary and reserve forces. The average effective strength of the regular army, all ranks, during 1882, was 189,429. Of this number 7,136 were officers. We regret to observe from home papers that two naval "sports" once well known in Hongkong, Captain W.M. Annesley, late of H.M.S. *Vigilant* and now commander of the *Banterer*, and Lieutenant Commander Raymond B. Naeaham, of H.M.S. *Orwell*, have lately met with a rather alarming accident. The two officers were driving at Galway—their vessels are stationed on the coast of Ireland—when the horse fell, and they were both thrown violently from the car. Captain Annesley was unlucky enough to break his collar bone, whilst his companion, who is a heavy weight, was very badly shaken.

WILLIAM CLARK, of England, an unemployed member of the seafaring profession, faced Mr. Wodehouse this morning on a charge of being a rogue and vagabond. Thomas Ryan P.C. No. 8, stated that Clark has no means of earning a livelihood and has taken up his abode on the footpath at Tank Lane. He has seen the defendant loitering about town for the past fortnight. The unemployed individual observed that he had nothing to add to the constable's yarn excepting that he has been in the Colony for six weeks, and that he was once convicted at the Police Court for drunkenness. His Worship provided the luckless tar with a fortnight's free quarters in the "Re-treat," with hard labor thrown in.

The *Athenaeum* says:—The trustees of the British Museum have lately received from Peking some typographical curiosities in the shape of eight volumes containing portions of two Chinese works printed during the thirteenth century. These books are printed from wooden blocks, and display a marked inequality in the skill of the type-cutters. The paper, which is the ordinary Chinese paper, is in the case of one work much discoloured by age. The volumes have evidently been carefully preserved, and at one time belonged to the library of a Chinese prince, who, in consequence of a political intrigue, was in 1860 condemned to die by a "sullen cord." Hence the disposition of his library.

be displayed when it shall be understood that the whole of Annam is to be included in this sweeping measure. Nor, for the same reasons, is it unlikely that the Chinese Government, now put on its mettle, will have something to say on a subject with which it is intimately concerned, not to mention other States which have a more or less direct interest in the matter.

M. BRUN appears to have abstained from explaining the various transitions in the Ministerial mind that have led up to this *dénouement*, though he must have been aware that the announcement of the extended programme could not fail to cause surprise in many quarters. It is, however, a significant fact that Admiral MAYER should have been instructed to oppose any attempt on the part of the Chinese to effect an entrance into Tongking. If the Chinese Government be inclined to resist the progress of the French in Tong King, probably it will not lose a moment in determining upon energetic action when it shall learn that the future of the Empire of Annam is also at stake.

At present, however, the whole question is enveloped in a veil of mystery, which it is impossible to penetrate, and the public must be content for the moment with the information furnished by the Minister of Marine.

## TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, June 13th.

## REVISION OF THE LAND ACT.

The House of Commons has agreed to the motion of Lord George Hamilton without division for a revision of the Land Act to enable the tenant to purchase farms by means of state advances.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Sir John Pope Hennessy was at Aden, en route for Mauritius on the 20th ultimo.

A REGULAR Lodge of Victoria, No. 1026, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Friday, the 22nd instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely.

THE *Globe* says:—The unworthy opinion which the Chinaman in New York has always held concerning "the Melican man and all unto him belonging" will hardly be improved by the experience of one Sing Lee, a recent Chinese arrival in that city. He was robbed in Mott-street by footpads, and being of a merciful disposition refrained from firing off his revolver until the thief had got out of sight. For this he was promptly arrested and fined; for the law in America is very swift to punish wrongdoers, if they are Chinamen.

MR. BUMBLE might indeed turn blue with rage were he now in the flesh. As it is, his descendants are sadly shocked at the ingratitude of the "wicious paupers" residing in the Canterbury Workhouse at the present time. These pampered creatures have actually grumbled because they are largely fed on fish, to the reduction of the butcher's bill. The fish has cost fourpence a pound, and the inmates of the workhouse have rebelled—not because they were unable to have salmon or turbot, but because they desired meat. And the guardians have granted their request with the mania of colonisation.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes:—M. BRUN's frank admission that the proposed Protectorate is not to be confined to Tong King, but is to be extended over the whole of Annam, is, of course, the salient feature of the information which he supplied to the committee. In this case at least, the tactics will be in connection with the famous Khrourmir campaign are to be modified in a certain degree. Before the forces that are deemed necessary to ensure success set foot in Tong King, Tu Duc will be fairly warned of the fate which awaits him, while the Chinese Government will also be put on the *qui vive*. The French Chamber, moreover, be duly apprised of the adventure upon which the Ferry Cabinet is entering with so light a heart. If, therefore, the enterprise does not meet with the success anticipated by its promoters the country will not be able to reprobate the Ministry with any lack of candour in this instance at least. On the other hand, it seems strange that before Parliament has been consulted the Comte de Korgaradec should have been allowed to start for Hué with an autograph letter from the President of the Republic, coolly calling upon the Emperor of Annam to place his dominions under a French Protectorate. It is well known that M. Jules Grevy was strongly opposed even to Admiral Jaurouiberry's far more modest scheme. The secret has been well kept, and it is only on the eve of the submission of the committee's report to the Chamber of Deputies that the truth has been suffered to leak out. No mention whatever of a Protectorate over the Empire of Annam was made in the preamble to the demand of the Ferry Cabinet for the vote of £5,000,000, though this preamble was certainly sufficiently discursive. It now remains to be seen whether the more ambitious project will meet with the support which its predecessors had incontestably secured. If doubts were entertained in certain quarters as to the prudence of establishing a Protectorate over Tong King far greater hesitation will assuredly

be displayed when it shall be understood that the whole of Annam is to be included in this sweeping measure.

A LONDON merchant who recently advertised for a clerk and book-keeper at £3 per week received 1,950 applicants.

IT is estimated that the United States Government loses annually \$500,000 by smuggling carried on along the Rio Grande.

The growth of telegraph business in England since the State has acquired control of the lines is said to have been enormous. The number of messages per week have grown from 126,000 to 603,000.

THE Beaconsfield administration paid off \$90,800,000 of the national debt of Great Britain. The Gladstone administration has paid off \$102,500,000, and hopes this year to pay off \$40,000,000 more.

A SYDNEY paper the other day spoke about an ex-officer of the line driving a hansom. "That's nothing," remarks the *Bulletin*, "we know an ex-guardsman who, having 'gone to the dogs' in sheep farming, has developed into a hot-savoy man."

M. LEPERREUR FOURCY was examining a student in physics once upon a time, and the young man, being nervous, failed utterly on the first question put to him—a very simple one. "Bring the gentleman a bundle of hay for his breakfast," remarked the disgusted examiner to one of the attendants. "Bring two; the Professor and I will breakfast together!" remarked the student, who thus suddenly regained and asserted his self-possession.

SAYS the *Sydney Bulletin*:—His manner was bland, and he wanted about "tous tounans" worth of goods. The merchant, as good a fellow as ever lived, washed his hands uneasily in the air, and really felt it almost an outrage on so mild and childlike a customer to hint that there was already a little bill for *l'écu* not matured, "which you know might as well—that is, perhaps"—"Bilée, what bilée? My bilée, seven hundred? All tice, all tice, you hold it? Me give chequé. Me takes up bilée directly." And the heathen actually gave a cheque, then and there, with an easy indifference to such a "title" as he called it, just flavoured with a glance of mild, upbraiding which occasioned the good-hearted North-countryman the deepest self-reproach. And the cheque was paid on presentation, and Ah Haw got delivered of the £3,000 worth of goods, and shortly filed his schedule with as much calm alacrity as if he were an esteemed member of the Pitt-street chapel. And now what that merchant chiefly wants in life, next to information as to what became of the goods so quickly, is a leprosy Mongolian to use as a street rammer.

THE President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce recently wrote to Lord Granville complaining of the action of the Portuguese Government on the Congo. Mr. Lister, in reply, says he is instructed by Lord Granville to say that the Portuguese Government have assured her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, in answer to inquiries addressed to them on the subject, that the health officer has been appointed merely for the use of Portuguese packets to visit their bills of health, this being necessary for their free pratique at Lisbon, and that the post-office referred to has been in existence for some time past—also, it is understood, solely for the use of the Portuguese. The Portuguese Government further state that positive orders had been given to the Governor of Angola not to occupy any territory in the Congo during the progress of the negotiations. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, have no reason to apprehend any interference with British subjects in the vessels on the Congo on the part of the Portuguese authorities. The President of the Chamber has replied, stating that the Portuguese officials must have misapprehended their instructions, and asking that the Portuguese Government should be requested to repeat them in such a manner as that any interference with British vessels, subjects and mails should be avoided.

AN AMERICAN naval officer who returned from duty in the European squadron a few weeks ago visited the naval establishments of England before starting for home. In giving an account of his visit, he said:—"At no time has there been so much activity at the Chatham dockyard at this season of the year as now. The British Admiralty are for some reason, perhaps because of the present Irish troubles, pushing forward the armored vessels which are building, and will have them completed at an early date. The mechanics are employed on extra time. The greatest amount of attention is being given to the powerful twin screw, steel-armor steamer *Wasp*, which is altogether an exceptional type of vessel. It is intended that she shall be the fastest armored vessel afloat, and, while she is to be employed on cruising duty, her offensive and defensive equipment will be equal to that of any vessel she will probably ever meet. She is over 300 feet long, with a displacement of 7,350 tons. Her armor plating will be steel-faced, ten inches thick, and carried five feet below the water line. Her armor is laid on a ten-inch backing, with the usual iron plating, thus presenting a solid thickness of nearly two feet of steel, iron and timber against the impact of shot and shell. Above the fighting deck will be a tower, protected by a steel armor, while her weather deck will be protected by steel-faced armor. The armament will be unusually heavy, consisting of four 18-ton breech-loading rifles, besides the usual machine guns and torpedoes. The rifles will be capable of piercing sixteen inches of iron armor, or thirteen inches of steel armor at a distance of 1,000 yards. She will also have a number of six-inch breech-loading rifles for effective work at a range of five miles. Her cost, when completed, will be about \$3,750,000. Her hull and machinery alone costing about \$1,500,000. This, together with the other armored vessels, will be completed during the present year."THE *Athenaeum* says:—The trustees of the British Museum have lately received from Peking some typographical curiosities in the shape of eight volumes containing portions of two Chinese works printed during the thirteenth century. These books are printed from wooden blocks, and display a marked inequality in the skill of the type-cutters. The paper, which is the ordinary Chinese paper, is in the case of one work much discoloured by age. The volumes have evidently been carefully preserved, and at one time belonged to the library of a Chinese prince, who, in consequence of a political intrigue, was in 1860 condemned to die by a "sullen cord." Hence the disposition of his library.

A LADY was taken to the House of Commons to hear the debate on the Affirmation Bill. She was eagerly questioned afterwards as to what she thought of the proceedings, which she summed up briefly enough—"I never saw such an ugly lot of men together in my life, dear!"

SAVS the *Sydney Bulletin*.—Murder will out, but we scarcely thought it would begin to bark so early: "Queensland will soon be another £3,000,000, with New Guinea as added security" "Dot's deedie game vat Thomas blays," and poor Bob Vagi's newly-acquired crown is already on its way to the "pop-shop." *Sic transit gloria mundi.*THE *Paris Telegraph* prints a letter from M. Ferdinand de Lesseps to a Suez Canal shareholder, in which the writer discusses the proposal for a second Canal. M. de Lesseps asserts that it would be "materially impossible to excavate this new course outside the road through the valley of the Isthmus of Suez." Should the necessity of forming a second canal be admitted, with the object of avoiding the meeting or momentary stoppage of vessels, M. de Lesseps promises that the present company would undertake the work with the approbation of the shareholders assembled in general meeting. As to the scheme of a sweet-water canal between Alexandria and Cairo, M. de Lesseps begs to point out to its authors that the Nile, after having fertilised the Delta, communicates with the Damiette branch with Alexandria by the Wah-moude Canal, due to the genius of Mehmet Ali.

CHILDREN are sometimes dangerous neighbours. A gentleman recently invited a friend to his house to tea. Immediately on being seated at table a little daughter of the host said to the guest, quite abruptly, "Where is your wife?" The gentleman, having been recently separated from the partner of his life, was surprised and annoyed at the question, and stammered forth the truth—"I don't know." "Don't know?" replied the enfant terrible, "why don't you know?" Finding that the child persisted in her interrogatories, despite the mild reproof of her parents, he concluded to make a clean breast of the matter, and have it over at once. So he said, with calmness, "Well, we don't live together: we think, as we can't agree, we'd better not." He stifled a groan as the child began again, and dared an exasperated look at her parents. But the little torment would not be quieted until she exclaimed, "Can't agree? Then why don't you fight it out, as pa and ma do?"

ANOTHER page in the history of romance will be filled by the tale of the Duchesse de Chaulnes. At 18 years of age, with a superb head of golden hair, Mdlle. Sophie Gallatin was said to be the most beautiful girl in France. She married the Duc de Chaulnes, one of the first peers of the Empire. But she—ahem!—didn't discriminate between the man she had married and the man she hadn't married, and this unbecoming forgetfulness on her part so annoyed the Duc that he gradually died. Then she discriminated less, than ever, and her late husband's mother took the children away, for fear they would become gay, too. Sophie brought a lawsuit to recover them, but was unsuccessful; and her fortune went with her children. She went for a while to her own mother, but quarreled with her also. Then she went to lodge with an old servant in the poorest quarter of Paris, then took to morphine; all her friends deserted her except her old family doctor, who cut off her golden hair; and in a hotel, she died, aged 24. A queen of society a year ago!

A RICH story of the County Court comes to us from Hampshire. In that charming county a man owned an omnibus, by which he conveyed passengers from the village in which he lived to a railway station some miles away. He ran into debt, and was summoned to appear before a County Court judge. A verdict was given against him, but he neglected to pay. The plaintiff pressed for judgment to distraint, and his honour granted the order. The bailiffs were instructed to seize the first thing they came across. This happened to be the omnibus in question. At the time the bailiffs seized the bus there were several passengers aboard her, amongst them being the very County Court judge who had made the order in question. He was ordered to bundle out. In vain he protested and told the men to seize something else. They were obstinate. They had got the bus, and they intended to keep it. The judge, therefore, was compelled to get put with the result that he missed his train, and was unable to reach his destination in time to hold a court. The proprietor of the bus looked on with a grim satisfaction, written in every line of his face.

THE statistics of the German Empire for 1883 are published in a little pamphlet of thirty-five pages, which gives all the important details from official sources. Population, 45,000,000, an annual increase of 500,000, divided into forty separate political communities, but all included in one powerful empire. Berlin, with over 1,000,000 of people, is the capital in more senses than one; four other cities only have between 200,000 and 300,000, while there are fifty other towns of diminishing numbers. Of the 20,000 emigrants from Germany the immense majority came to America, only 1,000 going to Asia, Africa and Australia. Trade, commerce,

JEAN PAGEALL, of Canada, a seaman, was up before Mr. Wodhouse this morning on a charge of creating a disturbance in Lascar Row yesterday. Thomas Ryan P.C. No. 8, stated that at 7 p.m. yesterday he saw the Canadian quarreling with some Chinese and making a thundering noise. The quarrel arose from the fact that a "pal" had lost a hat and Mr. Pageall was accusing a shopkeeper of the theft. The Canadian was not drunk at the time. His Worship discharged the noisy member with a caution.

In the Summary Jurisdiction Court before Mr. Justice Russell this morning the case was called in which Mr. James Bulgin, editor of the *China Mail*, sued Mr. R. Fraser-Smith, proprietor and publisher of the *Hongkong Telegraph* for an alleged libel published in the last named journal on the 8th inst., damages being alleged at \$1000. Mr. Jno. J. Francis, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiff, and remarked that this was the case in which his lordship expressed the opinion a few days ago that written pleadings would be requisite. Mr. Justice Russell observed that it would be better to have written pleadings at the particulars of the plaintiff's claim set out nothing definite. The defendant said he had intended, and had given the learned barrister informal notice of his intention, to ask his lordship to appoint a time to allow him to submit that, in the face of the decisions of Lord Ellenborough in *Sir John Carr v. Hood* and of Chief Justice Bovill in *Odger v. Mortimer* and other cases, this suit was vexatious and frivolous and not actionable; but on consideration he thought perhaps, after his lordship's observation, that it would save time to have written pleadings. His lordship replied it would save time and simplify matters, as after plead had been filed they would see whether there was really anything in what was said to be a libel. In reply to the Judge, Mr. Francis said he would have his pleadings ready on Monday morning, and the defendant thought it would take about a quarter of an hour to prepare his answer. His lordship decided, as neither of the parties had applied for a jury, to exercise his right under the Ordinance of having a jury of three, in the event of the case coming to trial. Mr. Francis then said that, after his lordship's suggestion, he would apply for a special jury. It was ultimately agreed that the case be called on Tuesday next, at 10 a.m.; when the defendant could demur to the pleas, summonses for the jury not to be issued until after arguments had been heard.

#### NEWS BY THE FRENCH MAIL.

The Messageries Maritimes Co.'s steamer *Pelée*, with the French mail of the 11th inst., arrived in harbour this forenoon. We take the subjoined items of general news from the *London and China Express*—

Medical degrees have been conferred on several lady students of the University of London. These are the first diplomas of the kind bestowed by an English university.

The *Merlin*, a composite gun-boat, Lieutenant-Commander R. O. B. C. Brenton, in Keyham basin, has been commissioned for the China Station, with a complement of 60.

The *Gazette de Turkestan* announces that the Russian troops have evacuated Kuldja. Two squadrons of Cossacks remain, however, to ensure the safety of the Russian Consulate.

The Queen has conferred the honour of knighthood upon Stan-Captain Alfred Ballantyne, commanding Her Majesty's yacht *Aberdare*, on his retirement after upwards of thirty-four years' service in the Royal yacht.

The *Encounter*, Captain George Robinson, from the China Station, arrived at Malta on the 4th inst., and proceeded on the 8th inst., homeward bound, having been relieved by the *Sabre*.

Captain John Vyner Willyams, R.M., died last week at Cheltenham, aged seventy-two. The deceased officer, who entered the Navy in 1822, was lieutenant of the *Nimrod* in the operations against Canton in 1841 (medal).

The necessary funds having been collected, legal proceedings are to be taken with a view to re-open the Tichborne case immediately on the arrival in England of the party now conveying from Australia the lunatic Creswell, who is alleged to be Arthur Orton.

The command of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers has just been vacated by the retirement of Col. H. Lock, with the honorary rank of major-general. Col. Lock, who served with distinction in the campaign following upon the Indian mutiny, will be succeeded by Col. G. B. Stokes.

The Russian frigate *Mirn*, which is now being fitted out at Cronstadt for the China station, will convey to Vladivostock a scientific exploring expedition, under the control of M. Potanin, a veteran explorer. If not interfered with by the Chinese authorities, the expedition will endear, after completing a survey of Western Mongolia, to make its way to Tibet.

Mr. Watson has this week blocked 34 Bills. In this wholesale transaction careful examination of the nature of the measures is not possible, and in his haste the hon. member has blocked one of his own Bills. He thus undertakes to move the second reading of a measure and to move an amendment that it be read a second time six months hence.

The total number of members in the House of Commons on the 4th inst. when the doors were closed, for the division on the Affirmation Bill of the Government was (Speaker and Tellers included) 566. There were consequently no absences. The majority (294) was made up of 240 English, 43 Irish, and 6 Scotch members; and the minority (291) of 23 English, 47 Scotch, and 3 Irish.

Mr. Bradlaugh has addressed a large meeting at Northampton. After giving his version of the recent events with which his name is connected, he said the question now was whether his constituents could still trust him. A vote of confidence in him was passed. Mr. Bradlaugh declared he would take his seat in Parliament in defiance of any punishment the House might inflict upon him.

H. E. Li Fong Pao, Chinese Minister in Berlin, left that city for Stettin to attend the trial trip of the ironclad corvette and four torpedo boats built for the Chinese Government by the "Vulcan" Company. A trial of the *Tung Yuen*—the dimensions of which were recorded in our last issue—broke place yesterday with satisfactory results, a speed of fourteen and a quarter knots being realised.

It is announced from Paris that the naval division, under Commandant Rivière on the Cochin China coast will, when reinforced, consist of the despatch boats *Pluvier*, *Alouette*, and the gunboat *Lynx*, *Viper*, *Fauve*, *Léopard*, *Surprise*, *Caravane*, *Musée*, *Volaguan*, *Hache*, *Éclat*, and *Trombe*, in addition to the squadron now on the station.

The Guion mail steamer *Alaska* has made another remarkable passage to New York, her

time being 6 days 23 hours and 48 minutes. She left Queenstown on the 29th ult., and arrived at New York at 6 a.m. on the 6th inst. Her daily runs were as follows:—45, 401, 421, 419, 428, 413, and 312 miles. This is the first time that the outward passage has been made by any steamer under seven days.

Intelligence received at St. Petersburg from Viennois states that the Russo-Chinese frontier relations are now of a friendly character, and that with the aid of the Chinese frontier authorities a stop has been put to the depredations of the Nomads. It is added that on the occasion of the Easter Festival an official visited the Russian Camp to offer the congratulations of the chief Chinese authorities.

The German barque *Paul*, which arrived at Hamburg on April 19th, from Hongkong, has been forbidden by the authorities to discharge her cargo, consisting of general goods and about 3,000 cases of firecrackers, because of a quantity of Chinese matches (very ignitable) being scattered about among the cargo, which must have been done in Hongkong when loading, thereby exposing ship and cargo to great danger.

The Paris correspondent of *The Times* writes that according to news received there, Lord Granville asked the Chinese Government whether it would accept Sir Harry Parkes as Minister at Peking. It is added that China not only

seems disinclined to do so, but evinces surprise

that at a time when England has every advantage in remaining on excellent terms with her the British Government should not have proposed for this post a man who can be regarded as perfectly sympathetic.

The *Messager Océan* states that the number of immigrants into Russian territory from Kulda has recently much increased. Scarcely a day

passes but 300 or 400 Tarantchis seek Russian protection, and if matters go on at the present

rate there will soon be no more Tarantchis left in China.

The same journal announces that it is

intended to construct a railway from Roum-

grad to the mouth of the Amou Darja, bringing

the Bay of Mervijs Poulton into communica-

tion with the Caspian. The works will be under

the superintendence of Colonel Alexandrow, who

has already left Tashkent with this object.

The Japanese Naval Commission is at present;

we understand, in France. Their examination

of the various shipbuilding establishments,

Scotland and the North of England has not been

as successful as was expected, no vessels having

been seen which would suit the purposes required

without very considerable alteration. As we

stated in recent issue, the Japanese Govern-

ment have availed themselves of a clause in the

contract, and have refused to take over the

Peruvian cruisers *Diogenes* and *Socrates* for the

reasons already mentioned. It is, however, in-

tended to purchase two more suitable vessels

without delay.

A singular accident has happened at Hamburg. While a new steamer, the *Polyphyllia*, of 4,000 tons burden, belonging to the German

Steamship Company's China line, was being

launched she glided with such unexpected,

and tremendous force into the water that she was not

stopped by her anchors, and dashed at full speed

into the Brazilian mail steamer *Buenos Ayres*,

striking her full amidships. The latter, which

was taking in her cargo, began to sink imme-

diately, but two tugs succeeded in getting her

ashore just in time before foundering. Luckily

there was no loss of life, but several of the crew

of the *Buenos Ayres* were badly injured. Both

steamers were much damaged.

The Deutsch Dampfschiff Rheiher (German

Steamship Company) has augmented its fleet by

a new boat, the *Idjebint*, of 2,000 tons carrying

capacity, which was built by the Vulcan

Company at Stettin. The new vessel has arrived

at Hamburg, and answers the purposes of the

King-in line in every respect. The Vulcan

Company has recently published orders from

the Chinese Government for the building of four

torpedo-boats of the first class and four of the

second class, of which two will be despatched to

China by the *Ting Yuen*, ironclad corvette,

which recently made its trial trip at Swinemünde.

During the present year another ironclad corvette

and a large steam dredger have been ordered by

the Chinese Government.

The burning of the steamer *Grappler* and the

loss of fifty lives off the coast of Vancouver's

island is reported by telegram. The *Grappler*,

which was formerly a British gunboat, had a

large number of passengers, chiefly Chinamen,

on board. When the fire was discovered the

pumps were started, and Chinamen got into a

panic and rushed about the vessel, impeding the

operations of the officers and crew, and some of

them had to be knocked down to restrain them.

Meanwhile, the fire having gained headway,

the steamer was run ashore. The boats were

lowered, but the Chinamen jumped over and

swam them—all falling in a struggling mass

into the water, and drowning each other. Only

twenty persons were saved. Aid has been sent

to the survivors from Victoria. The *Grappler*

was bound from Puget Sound to Alaska.

THE ENGLISH JUDGES AND JURIES.

The conduct of the Judge, who presided in the

trial of the assassination charges at Dublin has

been made the occasion of numerous charges of

undue bias, not to say indecent partisanship; but

it is under a misapprehension of the facts. Judge O'Brien did undoubtedly, in the course of his

charges on the trials of Brady and Curley, review

the evidence in a way that is not usual in the

American Bench, and the effect could not but be

charged that this is part of an attempt of the

Government to coerce the juries and obtain con-

victions regardless of facts, because this is only

the ordinary method of the English Courts. There

is a wide difference between the practice in this

respect in the two countries. Were this a varia-

tion from the usual rule in Great Britain, it would

be very objectionable in the Dublin trials, and

might well excuse the criticisms referred to. But

not being an exception specially made in these

cases, but the regular thing, it is open to no

objections. There may be a variety of op-

inions as to the policy of permitting judges

to give their latitude in charging juries, but looking

at the dissatisfaction with the working of our

own jury laws, and bearing in mind that it is

generally admitted the results of jury trials are

more satisfactory in England than here, we

believe it would be well if we could introduce the

Chinese practice. The jury is the judge of the

facts in both countries, but in England it is under

the advice and counsel of a mind trained to

judicial investigation, while with us twelve un-

trained and often ignorant men are left to grope

their way through a maze of conflicting evidence

with no glimmering of light from any intelligence

superior to their own. This is running

